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UNCLAS MUSCAT 000522

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA/ARPI (TROBERTS), NEA/PPD (CWHITTLESEY), NEA/P  
(FFINVER), INR/R/MR  
LONDON FOR GOLDRICH  
PARIS FOR ZEYA  
USCENTCOM FOR PLUSH  
FOREIGN PRESS CENTER/ASILAS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KPAO](#) [KMDR](#) [OIIP](#) [MU](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: ARAB SUMMIT, ISRAELI MACHINATIONS, AND  
AMERICAN FAVORITISM

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Calls For Israeli Withdrawal  
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[1](#)1. On March 25, the privately-owned Arabic daily "Al-Watan"  
carried an editorial entitled "The Positive Algerian Summit":

"Despite the absence of public enthusiasm for the Arab summit,  
its outcome was positive. The summit made any peace initiative  
contingent upon Israel's withdrawal from Arab territories,  
including Syrian, Palestinian, and Lebanese lands, as well as the  
establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Arab leaders  
insisted that their aim was to encourage Israel to comply with UN  
resolutions on the Palestinian issue."

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Israel Hinders Peace  
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[1](#)2. On March 26, the government-owned Arabic daily "Oman" carried  
an editorial entitled "Sabotaging the Peace Process":

"When 13 Palestinian factions met in Cairo and agreed to an  
unofficial truce with Israel, many observers both in and outside  
the region were optimistic that the Israeli-Palestinian issue had  
entered into a new and promising phase. However, Sharon's  
announcement of plans to expand three settlements in the West  
Bank has destroyed that optimism. It is clear that the Israeli  
prime minister has intentionally endangered the peace process for  
internal political reasons."

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Double Standards  
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[1](#)3. The privately-owned daily "Al-Watan" published an editorial on  
March 27 entitled "America's Polite Criticism of Israel":

"The American administration sometimes rebukes Israel for doing  
things that hinder the peace process. However, these mild  
reprimands do not amount to very much because America never uses  
words like "condemn" or "denounce" in reference to Israeli  
actions. Nevertheless, if an Arab country deviates from American  
policy, the U.S. administration raises its club and threatens to  
beat the country into submission through military might, economic  
boycotts, or international pressure."

BALTIMORE